Library

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

BLACKROD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1964

To: The Chairman and Members of the Blackrod Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Blackrod Urban District for the year 1964.

General Statistics

Area in acres	2392.4
Population - Census 1961	3,600
Registrar General's Estimate of home population mid 1964	4,060
No. of inhabited houses at end of 1964	1,437
Rateable Value	£98,238
Sum represented by a penny rate	£400

Social conditions including chief industries carried on in the area:-

Residential in character. Industry mainly agriculture and carpet manufacturing.

Extracts from Vital Statistics

Estimated population mid 1964 4,060

Live Births	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	93	45	48
Illegitimate	6	3	3

Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated population :-

Crude Rate .. .. 24.4 Adjusted rate 22.2

Still Births	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Births 19.8

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births	NIL
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	10.1
Neo. natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	10.1
Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 total births	29.7
Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	10.1

Mortality rates per 1,000 estimated population :-

Total (all forms) -

Crude Rate	13.5
Adjusted Rate	16.4
Respiratory T.B.	NIL
Malignant neoplasms etc.	2.46

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age

Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age

Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Deaths (All Forms)	37	18	55

Causes of death during 1964	Males	Females	Total
Measles	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, breast	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	6	1	7
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	1	2	3
Coronary Disease Angina	9	3	12
Other Heart Disease	8	6	14
Bronchitis	3	-	3
Other Diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1
Other defined and ill defined diseases	3	2	5
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1	2
All other Accidents	1	-	1
Suicide	2	-	2
	37	18	55

Transferable deaths are included in the above.

Infectious Diseases

81 cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year.

1	Scarlet Fever
23	Whooping Cough
57	Measles

Cases of Infectious Disease and Age Groups

(Age Period - Years)

Disease	Total cases all ages	0--	1--	2--	3--	4--	5--	10--	15--	25 & over
Scarlet Fever	1			1						
Whooping Cough	23	2	3	2	5	2	8	1		
Measles	57	2	5	8	12	6	22			2

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(National Insurance Act, 1948)

Nursing Arrangements

There is a practising midwife resident in the District, provided by the County Council.

Immunisation

The Clinic, 164 New Street, Blackrod, is open each Tuesday, 2-4 p.m. The Doctor is present on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in the month for the immunisation of pre-school children, 322 children being immunised against Diptheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus. School children are immunised at school and 33 children have been vaccinated.

Maternity Services

Fifty Ante Natal Clinics were held during 1964 and there were 858 attendances made.

Child Welfare

Forty-nine sessions have been held and there have been 1,870 attendances.

Public Health Staff

The Public Health Staff consists of a part time Medical Officer of Health and a Health Inspector who is also the Surveyor. A Health Visitor is provided by the County Council.

Ambulance Facilities

Ambulance facilities for all cases are controlled by the Divisional Health Office at Leigh and the needs of the District are met from the Ambulance Station at Blackrod.

Mortuary

The Mortuary, situated at the Cemetery, is sufficient for the needs of the District.

General Health

The overall picture must be considered to be satisfactory. There was an increase of births be almost one third and only one infant death, aged two days. The percentage of illegitimate births however, at almost 6% was approaching the national average. The increase in deaths from 42 to 55, was borne almost entirely by the males, there being a marked increase in deaths from the heart diseases. The increase of notifiable infectious diseases follows a usual pattern.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

WATER SUPPLY - Source of Supply - The Urban District has its own water supply which consists of a Catchment area of some 170 acres in extent, from which surface water and water from land springs is obtained and stored in a 20 million impounding reservoir.

The Catchment Area is situated in the Horwich Urban District and is mainly moorland in character.

The Undertaking is adequate for the needs of the District at the present time and bulk supplies are taken by the Adlington Urban District and the Makerfield Water Board, for the Parish of Haigh.

The distribution system is by gravity being assisted by a booster pumping station to maintain adequate water pressure in the higher parts of the district.

During the year approximately 1,400 yards of 10" water main has been laid to duplicate part of the trunk main from the Council's Wilderswood Reservoir and this has improved the water pressure in the distribution system and reduced the amount of pumping required by the booster pumps to maintain pressure.

A scheme for the completion of the duplication of the trunk main is now being prepared for submission to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for Loan Sanction. Additional distribution mains have also been laid to provide a supply of water to new housing development which is being undertaken in the district.

Eleven samples of water have been submitted to the Public Health Laboratories for analysis and these were found to be satisfactory, one sample taken for Chemical Analysis was also satisfactory.

Continous Chlorination by Chlorine Gas is carried out to all water as it enters into supply. The plant is automatic in operation and the dosage is regulated in relation to flow.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Treatment is carried out at two main outfalls, Nightingale and Scot Lane. This consists of primary treatment by land irrigation. A scheme for the improvement of the sewer system and for the treatment of the effluent at the Horwich Works is awaiting approval of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Food Inspections

The following types of food premises are in use in the District and these are visited at regular intervals.

General Grocers and Provision Dealers	15
Green Grocers and Fruiterers (including those selling wet fish)	1
Fish Mongers (including those selling poultry)	1
Meat Shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meat, tripe, etc.)	2
Bakers and/or confectioners	-
Fried Fish Shops	2
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice cream, etc.	1
Licenced premises, clubs, canteen, restaurant, cafes, snack bars, and similar catering establishments	13

Number of Food Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955.

	No.	No. of Visits
Butchers (Manufacturers of Sausages)	2	5
Bakers (Manufacturers of Meat Pies)	-	-

Meat Inspections

There are no slaughterhouses in use in the District, all carcass meat being slaughtered outside the District. Regular visits are made to Butcher's Shops to examine meat offered for sale.

Food Hygiene Regulations

Inspections have been made to all premises to which the regulations apply and instructions given as required to persons employed in the shops.

Milk and Dairies Regulations

Seventeen samples of milk have been taken from producer and producer retailers and submitted for analysis. All samples were found to be free of Tubercal Bacilli.

Sanitary Inspections during the Year - 286

No. of premises visited		242
Defects or nuisances discovered		27
Notices served	(informal)	11
	(statutory)	16
Legal Proceedings		NIL

Scavenging of Streets

The Lancashire County Council is the Highway Authority for Class I and II Roads and undertake the scavenging of these Roads. Class III and District Roads are maintained by the District Council and these are scavenged at frequent intervals and in addition, a mechanical sweeper is engaged to sweep these roads at weekly intervals.

Shops and Offices

Thirty-five shops have been visited in connection with the Shops Act and Food Hygiene Regulations.

Public Cleansing

One thousand, six hundred and sixty-one moveable dust bins are in use at the end of the present year. Dust bins for domestic premises are supplied by the Council and the cost is chargeable as a rate borne service.

Refuse is collected and disposed of by direct labour. One 12 cu. yard end loading refuse collecting vehicle being used for the purpose. A motor driver and three loaders being regularly employed on this work and a weekly collection has been maintained over the year. Refuse is being disposed of by tipping on low lying agricultural land which is being re-levelled and graded to the adjoining field levels.

The whole of the refuse is tipped, there being no separation of materials and waste paper is not collected separately at the present time. No special arrangements are made for the collection or disposal from trade premises other than shops, the trades having their own arrangements for the disposal of trade waste. The remaining two pail closets are collected with the domestic refuse and disposed of by admixture with the refuse.

Offensive Trades

There are no premises registered in the district in relation to an establishment where an offensive trade is carried out.

Bakehouses

There are no bakehouses in the district.

Factories and Workshops

No. in District - 13

Carpet Manufacturing	1	Boot and Shoe Repair	1
Textile Warehouse	1	Building Sites	3
Joinery	1	Metal Broker	1
Motor Vehicle Maintenance	1	Light Engineering	1
		Processing Peat Moss	1

No. of Visits - 13

Rodent Control

Fifty-eight premises have been visited, seven minor infections of rats have been treated, three at dwelling houses and four at agricultural properties.

Five minor infections of mice at domestic premises and two

minor infections of mice at other premises have also been satisfactorily treated. Treatment has also been carried out at the Council's refuse tip for infestation of rats.

Public Sanitary Conveniences

Two public sanitary conveniences are provided in the District and these are sited at the Blackhorse Street/ Chorley Road and Manchester Road/Station Road Junctions.

Closet Accommodation

Privy Middens	NIL
No. of Fresh Water Closets	1,596
No. of Waste Water Closets	NIL
No. of Refuse Bins	1,661
No. of Houses on Water Carriage System	1,437

Schools

There are three junior and one secondary school in the District. The sanitary accommodation at the junior schools is adequate but as they are detached from the school buildings, in the winter time the water supply for the flushing arrangements is prone to freezing up and it would be greatly improved if this accommodation could be re-sited within or adjoining the main building. The sanitary accommodation at the secondary modern school is satisfactory and the washing facilities are adequate at all schools. The playground areas at all schools are now well surfaced either in concrete or tarmacadam.

Housing

The housing standard within the district has improved over the past few years, over 50% of the houses within the District are of post war construction and over 200 unfit houses have been demolished since the last war. During the year, 75 dwellings have been occupied and these have been built by private enterprise, the Local Authority have no new housing schemes in progress at the present time. Nineteen unfit houses have been demolished during the year and one unfit house has been closed.

Six applications have been received for standard grants for housing improvements and one for a discretionary grant.

Five applications had been approved for standard grants and four have completed the improvements.

One discretionary grant has been approved.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963

During the year, the following premises have been registered with the Local Authority under the above Act :-

Offices	3
Retail Shops	16
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	1
Catering establishments open to the public canteen	1
Total	21

Visits and inspections have been made to 15 premises in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

Clean Air Act 1956

The Council has been taking readings of smoke and sulphur dioxide daily and the extent of the atmospheric pollution in the district is being recorded.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Council's Officers for their kind and valued cooperation during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

E. TAYLOR

Medical Officer of Health

April, 1964